

To The Commission:

I am an amateur radio operator who's been licensed 40 years, with an extra class license for thirty. ARRL's petition to create a new entry-level license class (Novice?) seems like a good idea to me as it reminds me of my own Novice days: the challenge to upgrade, improve my cw speed. The one point I would strenuously oppose is the elimination of the 5 wpm Morse code test. Five words per minute is really easy to achieve, and amateur radio is supposed to be for the serious minded. I have attached one supplement from a ham in another country petitioning his government to retain Morse testing, and the arguments apply as well to us. I have attached a second supplement of a newspaper article telling of how current Morse code is. Although the article is somewhat dated, much of the material is still relevant.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Earl S. Gosnell III